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ATHENA, ORE., NOV. 23, 1906

We have reform schools for wayward children, which doubtless do the best they can. But if there could be reform schools for parents there would be little or no need of reform schools for children. Delinquent parents are to blame for delinquent children—in nine cases out of ten. If parents would go their duty, if they could be forced by state, church, society, press, public opinion or the whips and scorns of the time, to realize their responsibility for the children they have brought into the world—then there would be no need of the state reform school. The parents would keep their school. Its course of instruction would be admonitory and preventive. It is seldom that a child brought up in the right way by the parents will afterward take the wrong way. Judge Ben B. Lindsey of Denver, who has had notable success in dealing with juvenile delinquents and who has mastered the art of getting in close touch with boy life, declares that "one million children in this country are annually drifting into crime." This certainly is an important statement, if true. But [is it true?] Anybody who has eyes to see and ears to hear knows that there are a great many juveniles who are developing tendencies in that direction. But to say that a million boys and girls are drifting into crime every year in the United States strikes us as absurd. We think that the judge is too prodigal in the use of epithets in his statistical utterances.

The Oregon Tradesman lists the months of November and December as being good months for trade. There are months in the year when business is not so good. Why not spend a little thought and exertion toward making the November and December business large enough to balance for all the slow months which may come hereafter? There are infinite possibilities in these months—see some of them. Remember the advertising and the windows.

Athena merchants have given particular attention in the selection of goods this year for the holiday trade. Persons coming to Athena to make holiday purchases will find large and varied stocks to select from and prices as low, quality of goods considered, as quoted anywhere in the Inland Empire.

President Hill attributes the shortage in cars, not to the scarcity, but to a shortage in terminal and trackage facilities. It is interesting to learn that fact, but hardly satisfying. The man who is today borrowing coal from his neighbor doesn't care much whether the shortage is due to lack of cars or lack of tracks.

From the Spokane papers it is learned that there is a food inspector in the state who is really enforcing the law against adulterated foods. Spokane grocery men have been ordered to remove from their shelves certain canned strawberries alleged to be colored with coal tar dyes.

Count Boni's lawyers are pathetically telling the world that if the countess' suit for divorce is granted he will have to give up his ancestral estate, et cetera. It's all terribly sad, but we wonder just how long the count's "ancestral estate" would have lasted at his gait, had he never seen an American heiress.

And now they have gone and organized a rhinoceros trust and cornered the market. What chance has a poor man to own a menagerie while such goings on are permitted to the rich and powerful?

The chief of police of Seattle has ordered all prize fighters to leave that town or go to work. Cruel man! Perhaps the poor fighters are too strong to work.

Steps are being taken to interest Australians in Washington fruit with a view toward finding a new and unlimited market for products of the state.

Maxim Gorky still continues to rail at the American people, and the American people still continue to keep Gorky at arms length with a pair of tongs.

That box of Hood River apples had the desired effect. Bryan is coming to Oregon in January.

ABSURDITY OF PRECEDENT.

It is a mighty good thing to follow precedent, that is, when it is a good precedent. Otherwise, not. There is no greater humbug than the position taken by many people that a certain thing should not be done because it violates a precedent that some old codger established a hundred years ago, when the aforesaid old cod—pioneer, was no more nearly infallible than any other man who might have been in his position.

Every progressive movement that has ever been made violated some precedent. If nothing was ever done excepting something that had been done before, mankind would still be arrayed in the skins of wild animals as in the days of Abraham.

One of the most absurd and indefensible precedents that has thrown around it the hoary mantle of musty tradition is the one that when a man takes his position in the United States senate as a new member he shall not open his mouth in debate until he has sat dumbly there and learned what he should say from listening to those who have already earned their right to speak through two years of stupid silence.

The greatest statesman the country affords might take his place in the United States senate late in his life, but after his reputation was earned, and he would be expected to sit still for a couple of years while some other senator who had been there for twenty years and actually knew less about the needs of the country than when he began his service—and there are such, the more's the pity—would be permitted to jabber away in endless twaddle because he had won the right, though not the ability, to talk.

It is with a positive feeling of pleasure that the country beholds the advent of a few new senators who propose to exercise their constitutional right to speak whenever they feel so disposed. Senator LaFollette, of Wisconsin, is one of these. He is a man of ability, fully understands the subject upon which he speaks, and while he is radical in some ways, not nearly so much so as the corporations he is conscientiously after.

The man just entering the senate may have a message the country and senate should hear, though he must not deliver it lest he displease some man like Platt or Depew! Great is precedent!

And there are fully as many bad precedents as good ones.—Pendleton Tribune.

Had a Close Call
"A dangerous surgical operation, involving the removing of a malignant ulcer as large as my hand from my daughter's hip, was prevented by the application of Bucklen's Arnica Salve," says A. C. Stieckel, of Milltown, W. Va. "Persistent use of the salve completely cured it." Cures cuts, burns and injuries. 25c at Mc-Bride's.

Washington Chat
Special Correspondence.

Officials in many bureaus of the government service coming under the head of the interior department, are wondering if they will be affected by the sweeping changes planned by James R. Garfield, now commissioner of corporations, and which he proposes to make when he assumes the office of secretary of the interior next March. Secretary Hitchcock sometime ago, contemplated a complete reorganization such as is talked of now, but knowing that he would soon retire, decided to leave the matter to his successor.

It is understood that the general land office will be the first branch to hear from the new secretary, for, according to a report recently rendered by the President, that office is now and has been for years the worst managed department in the government service. Its system of accounting business is many years behind the times and each encroaching commissioner has done little or nothing to bring it up to modern standards. The belief is expressed that a more alert administration of its affairs would have made impossible the gigantic frauds perpetrated by the land grafters.

Secretary Garfield, when he assumes his new duties, will have his hands full in "making over" the interior department, as it is one of the most ponderous branches of the federal government. Through it millions of dollars are distributed yearly; it has an army of employes and has jurisdiction over the patent office, the pension office, the Indian office, the geological survey and the bureau of education. In carrying out the new policies the new secretary will have the complete support of the president who has long been anxious to have the working methods of several departments changed to conform to the recommendations of the keep investigating committee.

Compared to the slow work usually done on public buildings when constructed by the government, it is wonderful to note the rapid progress being made on the immense new building of the department of agriculture, now being erected on the southern half of the Mall near the Washington monument.

The two wings of the building, each 250 feet long, are well under way, and by this date next year will be finished and ready for occupancy. An appropriation for the central part, which is to be 338 feet long, will probably be made at the coming session of congress. The entire building will be 750 feet in length, just a foot less than the greatest dimension of the capitol. When the present wings are completed the department will be relieved of the necessity of housing a number of its branches in rented buildings, but until the main portion is finished, the executive officers will continue as at present in the old Agricultural department building.

That to the many public buildings of the nation's capitol will soon be added a structure of such magnitude is not generally realized by visitors to the city or by those who reside here. The new department of agriculture, the capitol, the new national museum and the new union station complete the four largest of the public buildings in Washington.

The big government printing office played an important part in the recent political campaign, supplying, it is said, more than 5,000,000 copies of congressional speeches for members of both branches of congress. The expense for such work is paid by the person ordering it and members of both political parties have equal privileges, the amount being limited only by the wish of the member. Not only are congressmen permitted to have Uncle Sam's big printing shop do work for them at a nominal cost, but any individual may, upon presentation of a certified check for the amount of the cost, have printed for his individual use 250 or more copies of any government publication, provided the order is given before the completion of the press work.

The speeches that were in the most demand just before election were those on the meat inspection bill and railway rate legislation. Pure food agitation and the Philippine tariff came in for considerable attention, while speeches on labor were popular in manufacturing districts. One exponent is reported to have ordered 50,000 copies of his speech in relation to labor. The largest single order for any speech was 150,000 copies.

President Roosevelt's lion is dead. It was chloroformed three days after the president left Washington on his trip to Panama. This was one of the animals presented to the president by King Menelik of Abyssinia in 1904 and which was injured while being transported to the United States. The injury, slight at first, instead of improving from the constant care and treatment given it at the National Zoo Park, gradually became worse finally reaching such an acute stage that it was found necessary to use chloroform to rid the great beast of its misery.

When the lion first arrived at the White House it was not much more than a cub and its playful ways soon made it a prime favorite among the pets of the Roosevelt children as well as an attraction to friends of the family and to visitors at the mansion. It grew rapidly and was removed to the Zoo park but was never placed in one of the exhibition cages on account of its injury, although it received frequent visits from the children of the White House who were always concerned in its welfare.

Settle Up.
Those knowing themselves to be indebted to Wm. McBride, the druggist, are expected to call and settle by October 15. Otherwise cost of collection may be added.

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